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On Campus

Our Time Now

**The 1997
Kentucky
Postsecondary
Education Act**

By Sheila Conway Eison

The 1997 Kentucky Postsecondary Education Improvement Act passed by the General Assembly May 30 marked positive change in Kentucky's approach to education and "confirms the importance of higher education in the state," says Dr. James R. Ramsey, WKU's Vice President for Finance and Administration.

Dr. Ramsey, who, in addition, is the state's Budget Director appointed by Gov. Paul Patton, says the bill which passed with wide margins in the House and Senate, "confirms also the relationship between higher education and the future of the state.

"The driving force, from the governor's perspective all along, has been his vision for the Commonwealth," Ramsey said, adding:

"The governor realizes that despite recent growth in our economy, Kentucky continues to be a relatively low income state.

"Our per capital personal income in Kentucky is about 82 percent of the national average, and the Governor's vision is that we have economic opportunities and a standard of living in Kentucky equal to that of the rest of the country over the next 20 years."

"There are many people who believe that this is one of the most significant pieces of legislation enacted in modern Kentucky history."

The new legislation offers opportunity for better quality and more accessible educational opportunities, along with a plan to recoup some of the financial loss higher education has endured over the past decade and a half through budget cuts.

"There are many people who believe that this is one of the most significant pieces of legislation enacted in modern Kentucky history," Ramsey sums it.

Coming from the perspective of his experience as the state's top economist and in light of his administrative experience at Western, one of the state's eight regional universities, Ramsey offers particularly valuable and credible insights into the bill's impact upon Kentucky, and on



Dr. James R. Ramsey

Western Kentucky University.

The implications for Western are "very positive," Dr. Ramsey says, some of them to include increased funding over the next three years to develop nationally recognized programs of distinction and provide competitive applied research programs.

"Western has from the very beginning been supportive of the governor's initiative," he says, and the University's Board of Regents is on record supporting the Governor's efforts."

And this is the first time, he said, that Kentucky's General Assembly has been on record stating what its expectations are for higher education.

In an interview with *On Campus*, Dr. Ramsey outlined the major concepts of the bill, which provides goals for higher education for the next 20 years.

Major themes, or key concepts of the bill which will impact WKU include:

- Creation of a new Council on Postsecondary Education
- Change in funding of higher education
- Creation of a community-based educational system
- Creation of the Commonwealth Virtual University
- Creation of Regional Advisory Boards.

The new 15-member Council on Postsecondary Education will replace the Kentucky Council on Higher Education as coordinating body for higher education.

The governor appoints 13

members, and there will be one member selected by students, and one selected by faculty.

"The Governor is committed to appointing someone of the highest caliber to lead this board," Ramsey says, adding:

"The Council will be headed by someone of national prestige in higher education, a person equal to the university presidents in the state, someone who is a real leader in higher education.

"And the Council will play a more meaningful role in the future in developing a strategic agenda for higher education in the state, relative to the economy," he says.

Built into the bill also is a process for legislative input in the development of the strategic agenda, and for executive branch input.

"One of the complaints that many legislators have made in the past has been that they were not involved in the front-end planning for higher education," Dr. Ramsey says, echoing Gov. Patton's belief that the legislature will have more of a commitment to higher education if it is involved in the planning process.

"The Council is one of the most significant features of the bill, and the Council's requirement to build the strategic agenda is very important," says Ramsey.

"The second most significant item in the bill is the change in funding of higher education," says Ramsey, who explains the bill calls for the creation of seven strategic investment and incentive funds.

Western will be eligible for three: a technology initiative trust fund; a regional university excellence trust fund and physical facilities trust fund.

"For Western, we are to develop programs of nationally recognized distinction, and we are to provide nationally recognized and competitive research programs. And there are funds available for us to achieve those goals. We'll have to meet certain criteria; it won't be automatic funding."

The governor has already committed \$761,000 for equity funding for Western for the 1997-98 school year to bring the University up to 95 percent of the benchmark institutions.

"Many of us believe that higher education has been underfunded in recent years; we have suffered numerous budget cuts. We believe

the reform will give us the opportunity to retrieve some of the funding that we've lost. And that's a positive.

"In the past, funding for higher education has been almost exclusively enrollment-driven," says Ramsey, who explains the incentive has been to grow and to get more students who may or may not have stayed at the institution to complete their four-year degrees, adding:

"This is a very positive change in how we fund higher education."

The third major feature of the Improvement Act is the creation of the community-based educational system, the Kentucky Community and Technical College System, or the KCTCS, as it will be called.

Ramsey chairs the transition team required by law to work on the new system until a new community and technical college board is in place.

Under the system there will be two branches, the University of Kentucky Community College System, and the Kentucky Postsecondary and Technical Schools.

"The theme here is for these two branches to collaborate and to really provide community-based education to both traditional and non-traditional students, and by non-traditional, that can also mean students who are in the workforce, but who may have obsolete skills, people who may need to be retooled or reskilled," Ramsey explains.

"Also, the KCTCS will work closely with our existing business and industry to provide them with training and professional development they need to be competitive in the world economy," he says.

"In addition, I think the KCTCS can focus on new business and new industry and their training needs. Nearly every business and industry that relocates or expands will tell its local governments that they need some help in training, and there may be a supply of labor in a community, but they may not have the skills that particular organization may need. The KCTCS will really be focused upon workforce development.

Story continued on page 2

Regents approve budget; honor area legislators



At its special meeting June 5, the WKU Board of Regents presented resolutions honoring Gov. Paul E. Patton and area legislators for their commitment and efforts on behalf of the 1997 Kentucky Postsecondary Education Improvement Act. Honored were Sen. Nicholas Kafoglis, who served on the Task Force on Postsecondary Education; Speaker of the House Rep. Jody Richards, who served as co-chair of the Task Force on Postsecondary Education; Sen. Richie Sanders; Rep. Roger Thomas; Rep. Steve Nunn and Rep. Rob Wilkey. Left to right, are: Dr. Barbara Burch, WKU Interim President, Dr. James R. Ramsey, WKU Vice President for Finance and Administration and Budget Director for the Commonwealth of Kentucky; Dr. Luther Hughes, WKU Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs for Enrollment Management, who served as University Liason during the recent Special Session of the General Assembly; House Speaker Richards and WKU Board Chair Peggy Loafman.

The Western Kentucky University Board of Regents at a special meeting on campus June 5 passed a \$130 million budget for 1997-98.

The budget includes a 4 percent pool for merit raises for faculty and staff.

"Our primary commitment was to faculty and staff salaries and to compensation for our employees," said Dr. James Ramsey, Vice President for Finance and Administration.

Dr. Ramsey said regents have been very involved in the development of the budget. In addition to funding salary increases, the budget provides funding for the University's Operational Plan, which was recently adopted by the Board of Regents. "We believe this is a very fiscally sound budget for Western for the next year," Dr. Ramsey said.

In other business, the board:

- *Approved the 1998-2000 capital budget request.

- *Approved the addition of sexual orientation to the University's nondiscrimination policy.

- *Approved resolutions of appreciation to Gov. Paul E. Patton and area legislators, Sen. Nick Kafoglis, Speaker of the House of Representatives Jody Richards, Sen. Richie Sanders, Rep. Roger Thomas, Rep. Steve Nunn and Rep. Rob Wilkey for their efforts in passing the Higher Education Improvement Act of 1997.

Postsecondary Ed Improvement Act insures Kentuckians' futures

Continued from page one

There are some other provisions of the bill that also are very significant, and from Western's perspective, one of the most exciting is the creation of the Commonwealth Virtual University, an idea that was developed last summer by the president of various Kentucky institutions," Dr. Ramsey says.

He explains that the primary providers of the Commonwealth Virtual University will be the regional institutions. They will have the primary responsibility for providing baccalaureate degree

access to recipients across the state.

"They will do this in many ways, such as through extended campus offerings [Western has extended campus offerings in Glasgow, Owensboro, Elizabethtown and Fort Knox], through distance learning and through joint programming that will be available to persons all across the

state, who, for whatever reason, such as being place-bound or not accessible to a campus nearby, may utilize the Virtual University."

A final major concept that will affect Western involves creation of regional advisory boards.

These will be boards of both lay and business people from regions within Kentucky who will provide advice and guidance to the four-year institutions and the community colleges and the technical schools.

"Their roles will be to try to ensure that the programming of all those schools is efficient and that there is not duplication, and that there is a real focus among the different institutions in providing educational opportunities," Ramsey explains.

"We've made a commitment to change," Gov. Patton said the day he signed the bill on the steps of the State Capitol flanked by children and strong legislative supporters of the bill, which included House Speaker Jody Richards and Senate Democratic Caucus Chairman Nick Kafoglis, both from Bowling Green.

President search continues

As we went to press, the search committee to choose WKU's ninth president was continuing to review applications.

A July 7 meeting was scheduled to continue deliberations, to identify candidates to be recommended to the WKU Board of Regents as finalists.

Cornelius Martin of Bowling Green chairs the committee, which has interviewed six semifinalists.

Reading we recommend:

The June 20, 1997 Chronicle of Higher Education, *Point of view*, back page, *The Danger Inherent in Abusing Academic Freedom*, by Brenda Miller Power, associate professor of literacy education at the University of Maine at Orono.

Dr. Power asserts more people would support the tenure system if the real meaning of academic freedom were understood.

On Campus

1997 Blue Pencil Awards of Excellence

in Employee Newsletter

and Feature Writing

Kentucky Association

of Government Communicators

On Campus is published monthly by the Office of University Relations, containing information of interest to faculty and staff and friends of Western, Sheila Eison, Editor.

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ABOUT FOLKLORE AND ALL THINGS FAMILIAR

By Cara VanWinkle, a junior public relations and print journalism double major from Eminence, Ky.

Dr. Erika Brady makes people see what is right in front of them. As a folklorist, that is her job.

"It's not easy to look at what's familiar," says the modern languages and intercultural studies professor. "It's like getting a fish to look at water. It's something around you all the time and you don't even notice it when you see it."

Brady said sometimes it takes an outsider to come in and show people what has been there all along. That outsider, or folklorist, is she.

Brady says she enjoys observing people and having the opportunity to introduce them to a new way of looking at what they often take for granted.

As a result, she spends much of her time outside of the university giving lectures, serving on various boards and organizing cultural events. And her reward for this is personal satisfaction.

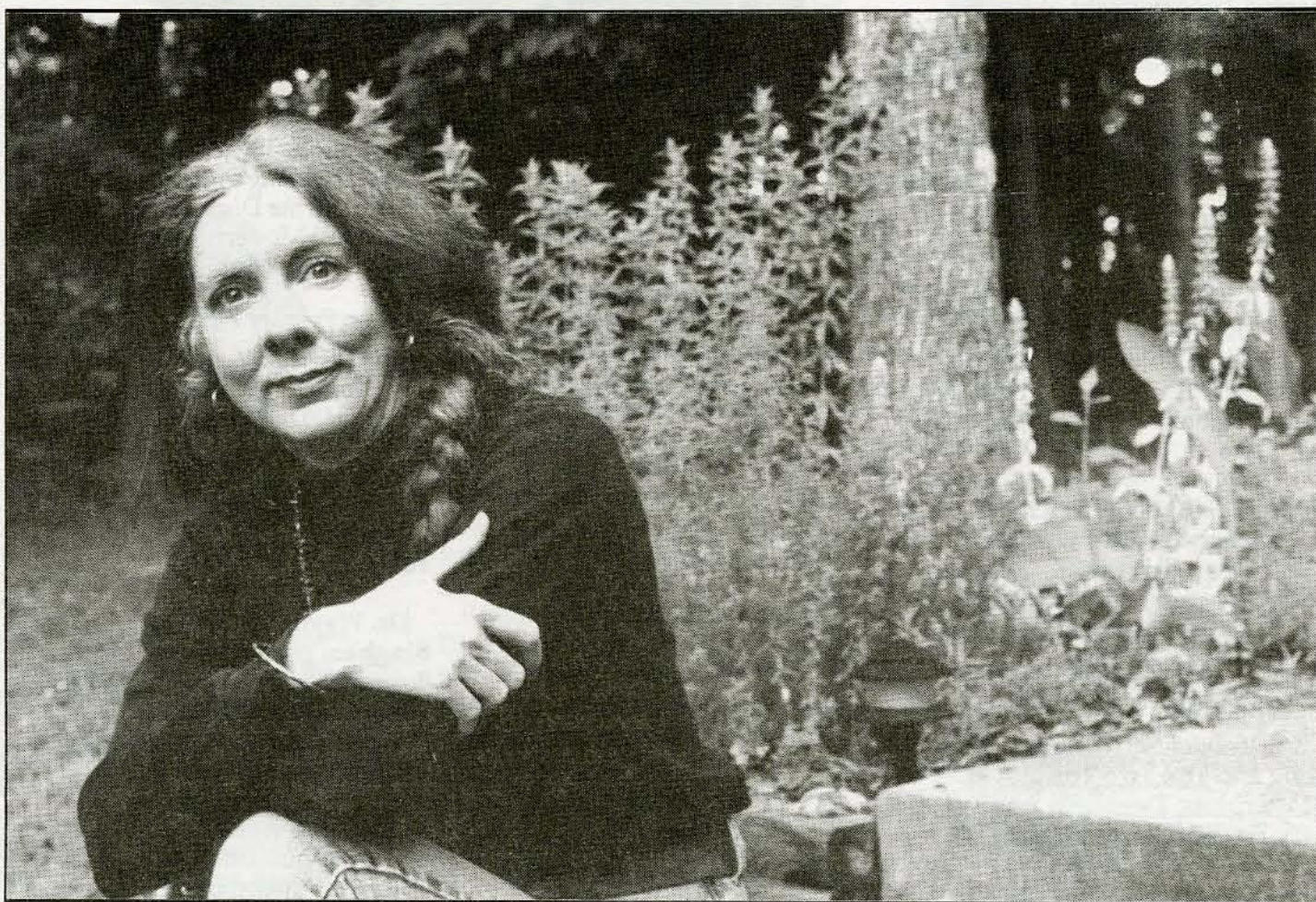
On May 11, her service outside the university was recognized when she received Western's 1997 Faculty Excellence Award for Public Service at commencement exercises.

Brady's interest in people began as a child growing up in Washington, D.C. She recalled having a profound interest in a blues music radio station. It was more than just the music that caught her attention, she said. It was the way the disk jockey introduced the songs and spoke to the audience. It was the blues demeanor that intrigued her; in essence, it was its folklore, she explains.

Brady's interest in people has continued throughout life and has led her to a profession where is she is able to share this interest with others. That, in part, is why she received the Public Service Award.

Time has become a valuable thing to Erika Brady. What she doesn't spend educating in the classroom is spent educating elsewhere.

Elsewhere, for example, means volunteering her time and folk medicine expertise to help both the Southern Kentucky Area Health Education Center (AHEC) and University of Louisville's family practice medical students.



In the herb garden bordering steps up to her home, Dr. Erika Brady grows a variety of herbs ranging from echinacea, valued for its immune system enhancing qualities, to culinary herbs like fennel and coriander. Brady, who learned from talking to practitioners of herbal medicine, uses many of her herbs in demonstrations and presentations on traditional forms of treatment. She's 1997 recipient of WKU's Faculty Award for Excellence in Public Service.

- Photo by Jenn Wilfinger

By helping both establishments, Brady says she has the opportunity to create an awareness and understanding of folk medicines. Faith healers, preachers and prayer, and herbal medicines, she said, are forms of alternative medicines that people in medically underdeveloped areas may tend to rely on instead of conventional forms of healing.

"Generally, they will read about something in a journal, magazine or Reader's Digest and decide to give it a try," she said.

By working with physician residents during their rotations in Bowling Green, she is able to prepare them for what types of situations they may encounter when working in rural areas. This type of training will hopefully attract more doctors to under served areas and help keep them there, she says.

Brady's professional dedication to folk medicine extends outside Kentucky. In addition to teaching folklore at Western, she also serves as an adjunct associate professor in family practice and community medicine for the University of Southern Alabama. There she is helping to create an AHEC consortium similar to

Western's, a task she finds very rewarding.

"The AHEC has very clear policy applications and has a potentially positive effect on under served areas," she says.

Folk medicine isn't the only way Brady spends her time helping the community. Currently she is working with the Kentucky Educational Television station (KET) to continue the production of a series of documentaries dedicated to Kentucky folk life started by videographer and Western graduate, the late John Morgan.

Brady and other Western folklorists are provide background information, ideas, contacts and approaches that could be used for the documentaries.

"What we are doing is taking something that is so familiar and then backing up and saying, 'This is interesting stuff that deserves our attention,'" Brady said about the upcoming series.

Brady said that another aspect of community service she takes part in is spending time working with the Kentucky Humanities Council's lecture program. This program allows her to visit various areas within the state and help raise the public sector's awareness of their

own regional folklore.

"I have the opportunity to introduce those audiences to a different way of looking at what they know already, in a positive way," she said.

But Brady said when she is out giving a lecture she is not only teaching what she knows to others, but she too is learning from them.

"There are reasons behind why they do it this way and not that way," she says. "There are lots of ways to cook a pig, but why is it that in Kentucky you cure it?"

Brady said although questions like that may seem trivial, they all happen for some reason. "Looking for the reasons" is part of the study of folklore, she says.

"I love to take one thing that seems irrational and pick it apart and unravel it," she says.

That, she says, is a way to help her understand people and also serves as a way for her to help them understand themselves.



BOARD OF REGENTS

Joy Gramling was re-elected to Staff Regent for a second three-year term. She also has been named 1997 recipient of the Women's Alliance Award for Outstanding Service to Women.

DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING

Dr. Jan Colbert has served a year as Vice President of the South Central Kentucky Internal Audit Association and will continue in the capacity for another year. The highlight of her administration was the charter of the local organization as a unit of the international Institute of Internal Auditors in April.

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

Dr. Mary Ellen Pitts, Department Head, has recently published five bibliographical articles (on Thomas Hardy's *Tess of the D'Urbervilles* and *The Woodlanders*, On Herman Melville's *Billy Budd*, and on J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Return of the King* and *The Two Towers*) in *Masterplots: Twentieth Anniversary Revised Second Edition*. An article on Loren Eiseley was published in the *Cyclopedia of*

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Literary Characters.

Three articles—on Aldo Leopold, Oliver Sacks and the medical essay—have been published in the *Encyclopedia of the Essay*, published by Fitzroy Dearborn, London.

A scholarly article co-authored with Bruce W. Speck and David Sigsbee, *The Vital Role of Writing-across-the-Curriculum Programs in Faculty Development*, was published in *Perspectives* 26 (1996):53-80.

During the 1996-97 academic year, Dr. Pitts presented:

A Theory of Everything: V.V. Nalimov's Textual and Probabilistic Model of Evolution. Society for Literature and Science, Atlanta, Ga.;

Facilitating Interdisciplinary Dialogue through a Center for Humanities and Science. Association for General and Liberal Studies Conference, Daytona Beach, Fla.; *Walker Percy and the Thanatos Century: Dyadic Action vs. Triadic*

Interaction and 'Humane Death.'

South Atlantic Modern Language Association, Savannah, Ga.;

The 'Unrolling Future': Loren Eiseley and the Discourse of Environmentalism. Modern Language Association, Washington, D.C.

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

Dr. James L. Davis and Dr. Nancy H. Davis (English) presented *The Parke County, Indiana Covered Bridge Festival: A Geographical Analysis* at the Popular Culture meeting in San Antonio, Texas in April.

Dr. Wayne Hoffman and James Bingham presented *Open for Business: the Kentucky Industrial Incentive Program*. 42101 at the Popular Culture meeting in San Antonio.

Dr. David Keeling had the following published recently: (1997) *Contemporary Argentina:*

A Geographical Perspective. Boulder: Westview Press, pp. 373; (1997) *Review of Latin American Development: Geographical Perspectives*, by David Preston (ed.) *CLAG Communication* Vol. 87 (Winter): 9-10;

(1997) *Los Transportes, el Desarrollo Regional, y un Analisis del Potencial Economico de la Argentina* pp. 1-12 in Pablo ciccolella (ed.) *Territorios en Redefinicion: Lugar y Mundo en America Latina*.

Dr. Keeling gave the following presentations:

Transportation, Regional Development, and Economic Potential in Mexico. Southwest Council of Latin American Studies Annual Meeting, Austin, Texas, February;

Reform del Aesthete: El Desarrollo Regional, Los Transportes, y el Potencial Economico del Interior de la Argentina. Th Encuentro de Geografos de America Latina, University of Buenos Aires, Argentina, March;

Secondary Cities in Mexico: The Case of Huatusco, Veracruz. Annual meeting of the Association of American Geographers. Fort Worth, Texas, April 1997.

Dr. Albert J. Petersen Jr. presented *The Ohio River Boundary and Riverboat Gamblers* at the Popular Culture meeting in April.

Dr. Michael Trapasso presented *The Civil War Defense of Bowling Green* at the Civil War Fortification Study Group meeting in Frankfort, Ky. in March.

DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS

Claus Ernst had *Tangle Equations II* published in the *Journal of Knot Theory and its Ramifications*. Vol. 6 No. 1, pp. 1-11 (1997).

Mark P. Robinson had *The Solution of Nonlinear Schrodinger Equations Using Orthogonal Spline Collocation* published in *Computers and Mathematics with Applications*. Vol. 33, No. 7, pp. 39-57 (1997).

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY AND RELIGION

Dr. Cassandra Pinnick, Philosophy, participated in a workshop sponsored jointly by the University of Galway, West Ireland, and the Pittsburgh Center for Philosophy of Science, University of Pittsburgh in June at the University of Galway. Dr. Pinnick presented her research concerning the relations between proof and evidentiary support in early modern science and the early common law tradition in English legal history.

VETERANS UPWARD BOUND

Randy Wilson has been elected to the executive Board of Directors for the National Association of Veterans Upward Bound Project Personnel as relations officer.

GRANTS AND CONTRACTS

Hoyt, Robert. Biology. \$55,132 from National Park Service for Biological Specimen Cataloging Project.

Pesterfield, Lester. Chemistry. \$10,360 from Murray State University for Chemistry Preparation of Preservice Elem. Teachers.

Myers, Phil. Center for Training and Development. \$993 from City of Bowling Green for City of Bowling Green - Cash 4—Two Sexual Harassment Classes. \$15,386 from Bluegrass State Skills Commission for Logan-3 Team Development. \$5,690 from Bluegrass State Skills Commission for Hayes Wheels Inter., Inc. - SPC Training. \$1,000 from VVI Fulfillment Center for V.V.I. Fulfillment Center, Inc.. \$407 from Logan Aluminum for Logan Cash 13 - Effective Listening. \$7,526 from Bluegrass State Skills Commission for Molnlycke - 2 - Microsoft Training.

Smith, John. Ogden College of Science, Technology and Health Instrument Shop. \$12,094 from Air Pulse Oil Pump, Inc. for Manufacture of a Pilot Quantity/100 Fluid.

Mendel, Colleen. T/TAT. \$38,641 from Administration on Children and Families for WKU Campus Child Care.

New Staff Advisory Council members

The WKU Staff Advisory Council has five new representatives who will serve a two-year term effective July 1.

Staff Advisory Council members meet with WKU's President on a regular basis to talk about issues affecting staff.

New members are: **Cindy Burnette**, Student Financial Assistance; **Fred Gibson**, Intramural-Recreational Sports; **Sharon Young**, Accounts and Fiscal Services; **Clay Diamond**, Facilities Management and **Danna Jacobson**, Accounts and Fiscal Services.

Returning members on the Council whose terms end next July are: **Linda Cantrell**, Information Technology; **Jennifer Roberts**, Development, **Nancy Bunton**, Student Health Services and Wellness; **Richard Kirby**, Public Safety and **Robert Upchurch**, Facilities Management.

Faculty and Student Commencement Awards

Western Kentucky University conferred more than 1,600 degrees at its 141st Commencement in May.

During the ceremonies, WKU Interim President Barbara Burch announced the recipients of the 1997 Faculty Awards. The winners will be formally recognized at the fall faculty meeting.

On Campus will feature each in a story in an upcoming issue. (See page three, this issue, featuring Dr. Erika Brady).

This year's winners are: **Dr. Lawrence Snyder**, Assistant Professor of Philosophy and Religion, Award for Excellence in Teaching; **Dr. Michael Seidler**, Associate Professor of Philosophy and Religion, Award for Excellence in Research/Creativity; and **Dr. Erika Brady**, Associate Professor of Modern Languages and Intercultural Studies, Award for Excellence in Public Service.

Top students were:

Nanette Eldridge of Hendersonville, Tenn., biochemistry, and **Johnathan Whetstone** of Brighton, Tenn., recombinant genetics and chemistry, Ogden College;

Pam Howell of Bowling Green, finance, College of Business Administration, and **Elizabeth "Georganne" Smith** of Elizabethtown, psychology, College of Education and Behavioral Sciences.

Jennifer Mantlo of Bowling Green, social studies;

Amanda Moore of Benton, English;

Kelly Prince of Cadiz, French, all three Potter College.

University Relations staff win communicator awards again

WKU's Office of University Relations staff members have won honors from the Kentucky Association of Government Communicators (KAGC) for their work.

The awards were presented at the sixth annual KAGC Blue Pencil/Gold Screen Awards Luncheon in Frankfort. The awards, which totaled 58, included award of excellence (first), award of merit (second) and honorable mention.

Sheila Conway Eison, Coordinator of Internal communication and Editor of the faculty/staff newspaper *On Campus*, received three awards: Award of Excellence in Feature Writing for the article, *Remembering Jim Wayne Miller*; Award of Excellence for Internal Audience/Employee Newsetter for *On Campus*; and Honorable Mention in Feature Writing for the article, *Women in Transition*.

Tom Meacham, Coordinator of Publication Services, received an Award of Excellence in Advertisement for the ad, *We Shape the Future* ad and an Honorable Mention in Magazine for the *ALUMNI Magazine*.

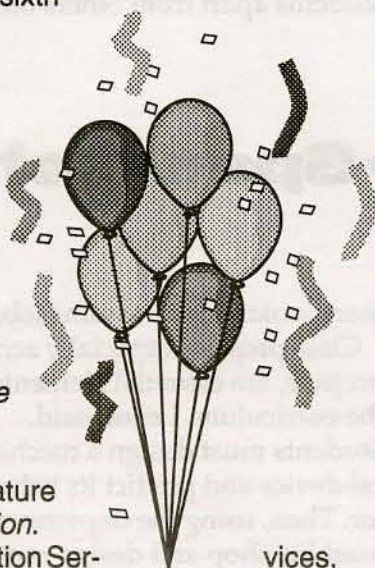
Bob Skipper, Coordinator of News Services, received an Honorable Mention for the University Relations Internet page.

John Wright, Coordinator of Electronic Services, received an Award of Excellence for the audio program, *Jim Wayne Miller: A Tribute*. He shared with Cheryl Beckley of WKYU-TV an Award of Merit in Video Program for the 1996 Hall of Distinguished Alumni video.

Fred Hensley, vice president for Institutional Advancement at Western, said he was pleased that the judges recognized the quality of the work produced by the University Relations staff.

"I think these awards are an indication of the talents of the communications professionals we have place and I am proud of their efforts to communicate with the University's various constituencies," Hensley said.

KAGC, founded in 1987, provides a professional network for employees of federal, state and local governments throughout the state whose principal duties involve communicating with other government agency representatives, the media and the general public.



Skipper named Interim Director, University Relations

Robert A. (Bob) Skipper, Coordinator of News Services in the Office of University Relations, has been named Interim Director of University Relations while the search continues to fill the Director post in that office.

The job was vacated last July when former President Thomas Meredith named UR Director Fred Hensley Vice President for Institutional Advancement.

Hensley had been serving as Interim VP also.

He had been Director of University Relations since 1980.

Skipper has been a member of WKU's University Relations staff since 1987.

Persons seeking the position of Director of University Relations were not eligible to be Interim Director, according to Hensley.

Skipper said he is not a candidate for the position.

A search was held earlier this year, but no suitable candidates were found for the director position, which was changed to Director of Marketing and Communications.

Hensley said because there were no applicants found to match this job description, the position would be readvertised for a Director of University Relations soon.



Gramling re-elected staff regent

Incumbent Staff Regent Joy Grambling was re-elected to a second three year term in a campus election June 11.

Gramling, Assistant Painting Supervisor in Facilities Management, defeated three other candidates with 191 votes.

Her opponents were: Howard Bailey, Dean of Student Life, who received 98 votes; Elizabeth Riggs, Coordinator of Counseling Services, Community College, with 21 votes and Mary Wilfert, Coordinator of Health Education, Student Health Service, who had 18 votes.

Nominees spoke at a campus forum June 10.

To be declared Staff Regent, a nominee must receive 50 percent or more of all votes cast, according to Tony L. Glisson, Director of Human Resources.

Western has one representative on the University's Board of Regents representing faculty and one representing staff.

Hughes named Assistant VP, Academic Affairs, Enrollment Management

Dr. Luther B. Hughes Jr. has been appointed WKU's new Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs for Enrollment Management.

In announcing the appointment, Interim President, Dr. Barbara Burch cited Dr. Hughes' record in recruitment and retention.

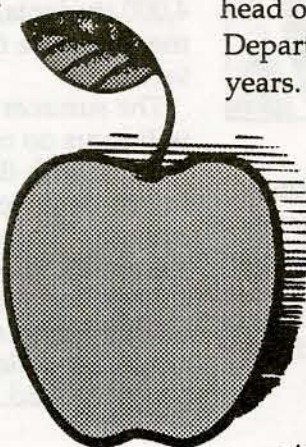
"He has been very successful in student recruitment efforts at three different universities in highly competitive areas," Dr. Burch said. "And as head of the Agriculture Department, he directed retention efforts leading to his department having the highest student retention rates within the

University."

Enrollment management will play a key role at Western as the number of students graduating from high school in Kentucky continues to decline, she said.

Dr. Hughes, a native of Cadiz, was selected following an internal search. He has been Assistant to the Vice President for Academic Affairs since September after serving as head of Western's Agriculture Department for more than 13 years.

He is the only Western professor to receive Kentucky's *Professor of the Year* award from the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education and has served in professional leadership roles at the state and national level.



Hardin named assistant dean, Potter College

Dr. John A. Hardin, Associate Professor of History, has been named Assistant Dean of the Potter College of Arts and Humanities.

A six-member search committee selected Hardin to assist Potter College Dean David Lee.

Budget cuts in recent years had eliminated the position, but workload increases necessitated re-establishment of the job, Lee told the College Heights Herald student newspaper.

Hardin's job will also consist of helping faculty members in the college, work on projects for the dean, develop more enrollment in the humanities semester, and work with University-wide recruitment efforts.

Hardin has been a member of the Department of History faculty for the past six years, specializing in African American Studies.

Hardin said the job was not by his own design.

He told the Herald newspaper, "It's an honor when people nominate you for a position that you didn't apply for."



Dr. John A. Hardin

Hardin said, "It's a chance to use my skills I have amassed in a way I can help my colleagues, my students and my university."

Prior to coming to Western, he taught Black Studies at Eastern Washington University and Kentucky State University.

He also was a visiting professor at the University of Kentucky.

Span Tech helps make better WKU grads

As James "Bud" Layne built Span Tech in Glasgow, he located a valuable resource in nearby Bowling Green -- graduates of Western Kentucky University's engineering technology programs.

Now Layne, Span Tech's president and CEO, is helping Western turn out even better graduates by pledging more than \$200,000 to create an endowment for the school's Mechanical Engineering and Electro-Mechanical Engineering Technology programs. That pledge is in addition to a 1995 gift of more than \$40,000 to help equip the Instrumentation and Measurement Laboratory.

Span Tech builds custom conveyor projects for the food manufacturing industry all over the world. "And since everything that we build is of a custom designed nature, we have a long-term requirement for mechanical engineering people," Layne said.

"Since we have a long-term need in mechanical engineering, and there's a shortage in this part of the country, we got involved with Western's program and became interested in how we could build that program up," he said. "We've been very satisfied with the graduates from Western so far and we're actively recruiting with them now for this year's graduates."

Dr. John Russell, head of the Engineering Technology Department, said the gift will provide a continuing source of revenue that will enable the department to continue its philosophy of producing graduates who are employable in this region.

"The revenue generated from this endowment makes the difference in being able to offer a basic instructional program and one that has the kind of extra features that we believe will set us apart from

other programs of similar level," Dr. Russell said.

Money from the endowment will be used in faculty development and the maintenance and upgrading of equipment used in the instructional program, he said. "That source of revenue will enable us to support things that our current operating budget simply cannot support."

Dr. Russell said that several years ago the department developed the philosophy of preparing students to meet the needs of the industries in this area--the industries most likely to hire them. That meant taking a look at all parts of the program, from the course offerings to the laboratories.

Joel Lenoir, an engineering technology instructor, said the department's focus "is to produce engineering practitioners, ready to go out and perform in an entry-level capacity, and to be a useful member of a team in these regional industries."

Part of that preparation, Lenoir said, is to provide hands-on experience throughout the curriculum. Hands-on experience is expensive.

"Engineering technology is very equipment intensive," he said. "

The original Span Tech gift and the beginning part of the endowment money were used to build the laboratories we needed and to buy the equipment that we needed

for the students to do their senior projects, to do regular class projects, to build equipment for our laboratories--those types of hands-on experience that set the students apart from others out



there looking for the same jobs."

Class projects, especially senior projects, are essential elements in the curriculum, Lenoir said.

Students must design a mechanical device and predict its behavior. Then, using the department's machine shop and design center, students build and test the devices. The department provides the resources and often the projects result in equipment that can become a part of the labs.

"We do the same things that they will do with their jobs from day one," he said.

Layne praised the department's leadership, but added it is "starved for funds just like all the other colleges at the University. They depend a great deal on outside contributions."

While Span Tech's gift is significant, Layne said his company cannot fund all of the department's needs.

"We're going to go out and talk with my other affiliates in indus-

try and see if we can get the same kind of interest from them as well," he said.

That is the kind of relationship Western President Thomas C. Meredith said he likes to see: the University working with business and industry to meet each other's needs.

"Bud Layne and Western's Engineering Technology program are setting an excellent example of how a cooperative relationship can benefit everyone," he said.

"While Span Tech's financial commitment is significant, we are especially gratified by Bud's commitment to helping us take our message to other industries."

Layne said the continued development of the Mechanical Engineering Technology program at Western will make the University "a tremendous economic resource for this part of the country."

"The essence of new industry comes from the development of new products. That's why industry expands most of the time, to make something new that's coming into the marketplace, and to make something new, we require mechanical engineering talent."

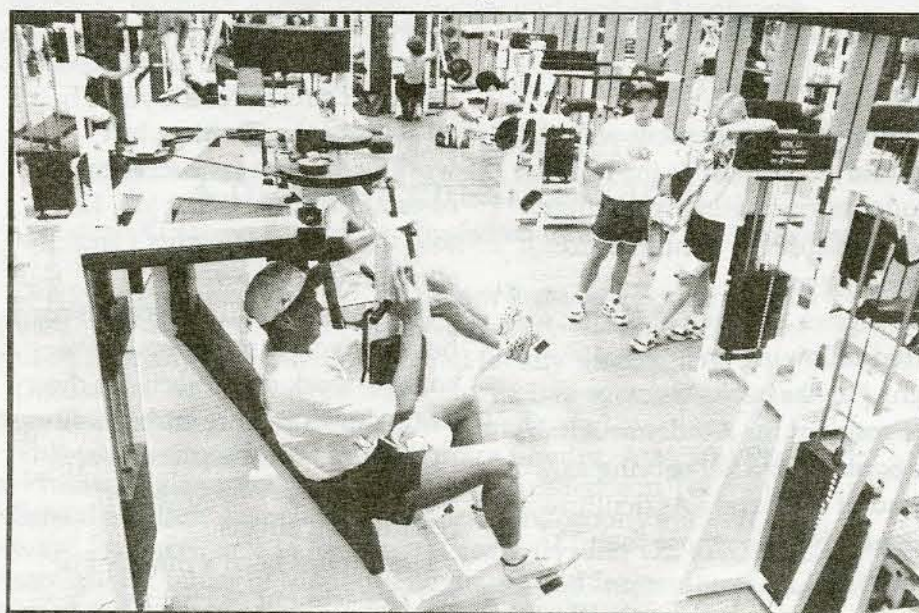
Dr. Russell sees Span Tech's commitment as an endorsement of his department's philosophy of preparing students with skills relevant to area industry. The endowment "will give us a continuing level of support to maintain the viability and quality of what we are doing," he said.

Camp for gifted in 15th year

Western Kentucky University's Center for Gifted Studies will offer for the 15th year a Summer Camp for Academically Talented Students.

The two-week experience is planned for middle school students in grades seven through nine and started June 29-July 11. Students enroll in four classes among the 30 offered.

The Western summer program (VAMPY) will be held July 13-Aug. 2. Students in grades seven through 10 will select one class and focus on that content area for six hours each weekday. This summer is the 14th year that the Center for Gifted Studies has offered VAMPY. Eligible students qualify based on seventh grade ACT or SAT scores.



WKU Regent Raymond B. Preston and the Preston Family Foundation are creating an endowment for Western Kentucky University to help fund two projects.

Interest from the endowment will be used to support equipment upgrades and other capital needs

at the Raymond B. Preston Health & Activities Center and to offer a program of summer classes to help talented, but at-risk high school seniors.

Former WKU President Thomas C. Meredith announced the gift during Western's Commencement in May.

Preston family creates endowment

Preston and his wife, Hattie, live in Henderson, Ky. and are Western graduates.

Dr. Meredith said keeping the Preston Center a state-of-the-art facility is an important and ongoing need. "The Preston Center is a major part of Western's commitment to the health and welfare of our students, faculty and staff," Dr. Meredith said.

The Prestons were major donors in the construction of the \$11 million Preston Center, which opened in 1992. An estimated 4,000 students, faculty and staff members use the facility each week.

The summer academic program will focus on math, science and English with the intent of preparing students to be successful in college. "These individuals have the ability to be successful in college, but would benefit greatly from these courses prior to beginning their college careers," Dr. Meredith said.

The Personnel File

The following personnel changes were approved at the Jan. 31 meeting of the University's Board of Regents. Information provided by the Department of Human Resources.

Faculty appointments

EDUCATION AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

Dr. John Kiraly, Instructor, School of Integrative Studies in Teacher Education

OGDEN COLLEGE OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND HEALTH

Shirley J. Wildermuth, Instructor, Mathematics

POTTER COLLEGE OF ARTS, HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Michelle R. Arsneult, Instructor, Government

Jill Maria Wagner, Instructor, Modern Languages and Intercultural Studies

Distinguished professors

Dr. Gary Dillard, Department of Biology

Dr. Robert Hoyt, Department of Biology

Faculty - Early retirement with special tenure status

Dr. Ray E. Johnson, Professor of Agriculture

Faculty promotions in rank

Dr. Marilyn Casto, Professor of Consumer and Family Sciences

Dr. Cheryl Davis, Associate Professor, Biology

Dr. Randall E. Deere, Associate Professor, Physical Education and Recreation

Matthew Dettman, Associate Professor, Engineering Technology

Dr. Joseph E. Etienne, Associate Professor, School of Integrative Studies in Teacher Education

Cynthia L. Etkin, Associate Professor, Library Public Services

Dr. Chris Hamilton, Professor of Government

Joel Lenoir, Assistant Professor, Engineering Technology

Dr. Douglas Mooney, Associate Professor, Mathematics

Dr. Loretta Murrey, Associate Professor of English

Dr. Lester Pesterfield, Associate Professor, Chemistry

Dr. Sally J. Ray, Associate Professor, Communication and Broadcasting

Dr. M. Bettina Richmond, Professor, Mathematics

Jo-Anne Ryan, Associate Professor, Communication and Broadcasting

Dr. Jacqueline M. Schliefer, Associate Professor, School of Integrative Studies in Teacher Education

Dr. Doug Schutte, Associate Professor, Allied Health and Human Services

Dr. Richard Shannon, Associate Professor, Marketing

Dr. Karen Schneider, Associate Professor, English

Dr. Donald Speer, Associate Professor, Music

Dr. John Spraker, Professor, Mathematics

Dr. Randall Swift, Associate Professor, Mathematics

Dr. Kay W. Terry, Associate Professor, School of Integrative Studies in Teacher Education

Dr. Michael Ann Williams, Professor of Modern Languages and Intercultural Studies

Faculty awarded tenure

Harry Allen, Journalism

Dr. John Barnum, Journalism

Dr. Joseph Bilotta, Psychology

Dr. Cheryl Davis, Biology

Dr. Robert Dietle, History

Dr. Joseph E. Etienne, School of Integrative Studies in Teacher Education

Cynthia Etkin, Library Public Services

Dr. Douglas Harper, Physics and Astronomy

Dr. Aaron Hughey, Educational Leadership

Dr. Elizabeth Lemerise, Psychology

Dr. Loretta Murrey, English

Dr. Sally J. Ray, Communication and Broadcasting

Dr. Mark Robinson, Department of Mathematics

Jo-Anne Ryan, Communication and Broadcasting

Dr. Jacqueline M. Schliefer, School of Integrative Studies in Teacher Education

Dr. Richard Shannon, Marketing

Dr. Karen Schneider, English

Dr. Doug Schutte, Allied Health and Human Services

Dr. Donald Speer, Music

Dr. Kay W. Terry, School of Integrative Studies in Teacher Education

Grant-funded positions

Marilyn J. Anderson, Specialist, Sponsored Programs

Michael Barbour, Minority Student Recruiter, Physics and Astronomy

Dr. Ronald A. Berry, Chief Physician, Student Health Service & Wellness Center

John Paul Blair, Collegiate Director of Development, Office of Development

Dr. Kenneth L. Burch, Training and Development, Human Resources

Richard A. DuBose Jr., Collegiate Director of Development, Office of Development

Jeffrey Dale Eversoll, Police Officer, Public Safety

Tyson Greenfield, Teacher, Training and Technical Assistance Services

Deborah Lynn Gregory, Coordinator, Hilltopper Athletic Foundation

Christopher M. Harmon, Microcomputing Consultant, Microcomputing Services

Nathan P. Jordan, Teacher Assistant, Training and Technical Assistance Services

Donna Mitchell, Teacher, Training and Technical Assistance Services

Elizabeth Mann, Wellness Program Manager

Deborah D. Medalie, Staff Accountant, Finance and Administration

Dr. Roger S. Pankratz, Professor and Executive Director, Kentucky Institute for Educational Research

Martha J. Sales, Counselor, Educational Talent Search

Cheryl Lewis-Smith, Manager, Compensation, Human Resources

Zhiyu Wang, Electron Micro-

scope Technician, Biology

Staff promotions

Ruth T. Kinnersley, Coordinator, Access Services/Assistant Professor, Library Public Services

Renee S. Page, Research Assistant, Office of Development

Support staff appointments

Mina T. Doerner, Office Associate, Office of the Dean, Potter College

DeAnna L. Durrant, Office Assistant, Office of the Dean, Ogden College

Damon W. Fleming, Police Officer, Public Safety

Vanessa G. Hill, Insurance Assistant, Student Health Service & Wellness Center

Elaine S. Poston, Office Associate, Music

Melissa P. Towe, Admissions Assistant, Admissions

Charles L. Webb Jr., Police Officer, Public Safety

Wendi D. Wilson, Office Associate, Engineering Technology

Retirements

Dr. James P. Worthington, Professor, Agriculture

J. Maxine Worthington, Office Associate, Mathematics

In Memory

Jerry Robertson, Wetherby Administration Building Custodian, Facilities Management, May 27, 1997.



Scholarship for international travel honors William Walls Jr.

By Cara VanWinkle

William Ralph Walls Jr. was a well-respected French professor at Western Kentucky University from 1971 until his death in 1979. His father, William Ralph Walls Sr., thought it was fitting to establish a scholarship fund in his honor--the William Ralph Walls Jr. International Travel Award.

That was the start of a relationship between Walls Sr. and Dr. Tom Baldwin, now the head of the Department of Modern Languages and Intercultural Studies at Western.

"It seemed very fitting that an international travel award be named in his honor," Dr. Baldwin said, "since when he wasn't in the classroom, he was traveling." The award assists students studying abroad since Walls Jr. had spent most of his spare time traveling and learning about other cultures.

After his son's death, Walls Sr. promised that additional funding would be set aside for the University

in his own will, Dr. Baldwin said. When the elder Walls died recently, he left \$50,000 to supplement the travel fund.

But that promise was not why he kept in touch with Walls Sr. Dr. Baldwin said they remained connected because of the bond that was created with Western by his son.

Dr. Baldwin said Walls Jr. was teaching French and was very much loved by his students and the faculty and staff who knew him.

"He was a very brilliant man," Dr. Baldwin said. "He was a lively and animated teacher and very well liked."

Dr. Baldwin said he and the department appreciated the Walls family keeping the University in mind after their son had passed away.

"It would have been very easy for them to forget about the connection with Western -- but they didn't," he said.

The bequest will be used for additional funding to the International Travel Award, the only travel award in the department. The scholarship has helped provide for 19 students to study abroad and will be able to fund up to six awards per year.

Potter College Dean David Lee said the department is pleased to receive the bequest.

"It will be very important in the strengthening of the number of international travel opportunities offered to students," Dr. Lee said.

At the time of his death, Walls Jr. had been granted a sabbatical leave from Western to go to the south of France and study the romance language Occitan.

Walls Sr. was educated at the Eastman College of Business in Poughkeepsie, N.Y., and during World War I he served as a pilot in the Army Air Corps. In World War II he was the Federal Rotation Officer for western North Carolina.

July 1997

On Campus



IT'S IN THE SHARING



Dr. Erika Brady, winner, 1997 Award for Excellence in Public Service

-Photo by Jenn Wilfinger

FOLKLORE



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